

Peter Fitzgibbon, Editor



It was just last year that The Government announced the release of the Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) and Unique Street Reference Number (USRN) under an Open Government Licence. Additionally, it mandated that, as of last July, both would be the public sector standard for

Private sector push for UPRN adoption

the referencing and sharing of property and street information.¹ The move came some five years after a similar proposal was rejected for licensing reasons

Building on this breakthrough, 51 of the most prominent bodies in the UK's PropTech and Residential Property Sector (RPS) have now sent an open letter to Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), urging government support for adoption of the UPRN across both the public and private sectors.²

True, the UPRN – which links a unique identifier to all things property, whether surveys or related paperwork, and which identifies objects in the landscape that would otherwise not have an address – has benefits for all. Faster conveyancing, more targeted legislation, greater protection for tenants, reduced levels of fraud, and increased productivity are just some of the plus points spelt out in the letter.

As Andrew Bulmer, CEO of the Institute of Residential Property Management, commented: "If all the conditions in our open letter were to be met, we could work towards the wholesale adoption of the UPRN, right across the sector. Implemented effectively, this could help position the UK as the world's leading property market".

Those proposed conditions include:

- All public sector data sets relating to properties and buildings to include the UPRN and a clear roadmap compiled to reach this point
- All future government tenders and policy relating to residential properties and associated data to mandate the use of the UPRN
- Clear agreement about the ethical use of data in the housing market
- The UPRN to be in a clear and useable format that allows it to be widely identified, and freely used and shared
- The tools and explanatory material needed by the whole sector for adoption - not just the solution providers

Doubtless the MHCLG will be mulling over the legislative and financial implications of these proposals, so watch this space for an update

1. <https://technology.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/02/identifying-properties-and-streets-in-government-data/>

2. <https://sairpm.blob.core.windows.net/media/npwliw5x/uprn-residential-declaration-final-logos.pdf>



Landmark report on UK's digital twin ecosystem

As the UK looks to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, urgent, sustained, and collective action will be needed to reignite different layers of our economy and society says trade association techUK. Digital twins have a potentially powerful role in helping us do so, it says. Yet there is confusion over what a digital twin is, how one can be used, and how one can be commissioned and designed. To bring clarity to the matter, techUK's interdisciplinary Digital Twins Working Group has published a landmark report: 'Unlocking Value Across the UK's Ecosystem.' It outlines how digital twins can be adopted effectively, and why the accelerated adoption of digital twins is essential for the future success of our people, economy, society, and planet. www.techuk.org

NEWS EXTRA

ABPmer to develop marine recreation activity maps

To support conservation in the UK's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has commissioned ABPmer to map recreational activities in those areas most at risk. The work will add to prior studies by identifying the timeframes, locations and intensities of each activity and is expected to be completed in March this year. Maps will be compiled for each activity, such as mooring, anchoring and launching, as will information on their intensity and temporal distribution. Chris Jackson, ABPmer's Data and GIS Solutions business manager said: "Delivering comprehensive activity information will ensure the MMO has the best evidence on which to base MPA management decisions. We will begin by collating available spatial data to help identify what we know and don't know. This will be validated by stakeholders who will also be asked to help fill gaps on understanding activity levels over time." www.abpmer.co.uk

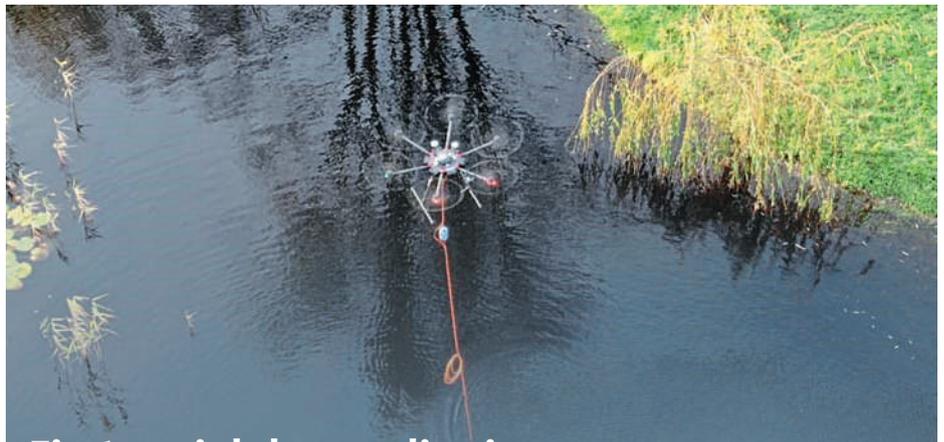


1Spatial Receives Esri's Utility Network Management Specialty

1Spatial, an Esri business partner and global geospatial software and solutions company, earned the Utility Network Management Specialty designation. 1Spatial has been recognised by Esri for knowledge and expertise with utilities and the implementation of **Water Solutions** using the **ArcGIS Utility Network Management Extension**. 1Spatial's software solution 1Water is based on the ArcGIS Utility Network extension and enables the management of geographic data and assets, as well as the modeling, editing and analysis of networks. It allows water utilities to model their entire business network in ArcGIS at a level of detail that has not been possible before. www.1spatial.com

IQGeo announces the acquisition of OSPInsight

IQGeo, a developer of geospatial productivity and collaboration software for the telecoms and utility industries, announced a successful fundraise of [**£5.0 million**] and the acquisition of OSPInsight International. Under the terms of the agreement IQGeo will purchase OSPInsight for **\$8.75m** which will be funded through a mix of cash and shares. The completion of the acquisition is subject to shareholder final approval. The OSPInsight fiber planning and design software for the **telecoms market** is highly complementary with IQGeo's own geospatial software that also supports **telecoms network operations**. While the current IQGeo offering targets larger enterprise network deployments (tier 1 and tier 2 operators), the OSPInsight software is ideally suited for the needs of smaller networks (tier 3 and tier 4 operators) with simple, fast deployments. www.iqgeo.com



First aerial drone-dipping sensors take off with Valeport

A cutting-edge new system for autonomous airborne hydrographic survey has been launched by THURN Group. The THURN QuickDip system of data collection uses aerial drones to carry Valeport sensors on pre-planned survey routes to deliver an efficient and repeatable method of gathering highly accurate survey data from inaccessible or dangerous waters. UK-based THURN Group developed the innovative **QuickDip technology** for inland and coastal waterways to offer a range of benefits including: rapid data collection from multiple sites of interest, repeatable **map-based surveys** to monitor change detection, the ability to safely collect data from difficult-to-access and dangerous waters as well as restricted-access waters, such as reservoirs. THURN QuickDip integrated drone-based system uses a Valeport sensor, a cable, a rotorcraft drone and UgCS SkyHub/True Terrain Following (TTF) hardware – from software developer for unmanned aerial systems SPH Engineering. www.valeport.co.uk

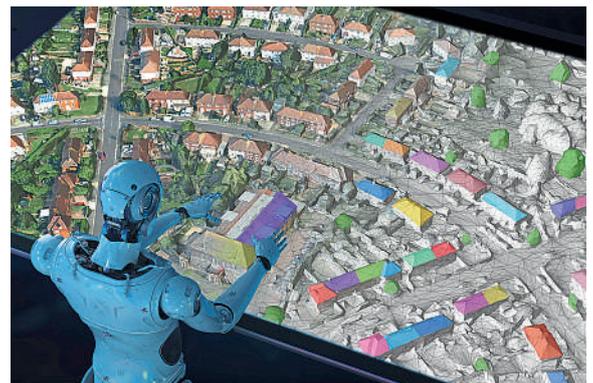
Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service introduces FireMap to share incident, water and risk information

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) has introduced Cadcorp SIS WebMap as their new corporate web mapping system. The Service has named their new system FireMap, which provides easy access to Ordnance Survey maps and to data such as incidents and hydrant locations. As it develops, FireMap will provide easy access to other frontline risk information and plans. LFRS already use Cadcorp GIS software as part of its Workload Modelling, Fire Hydrant Management, Incident Recording System, and mobile devices. FireMap allows the data and analysis from these applications to be shared corporately throughout the Service. www.cadcorp.com



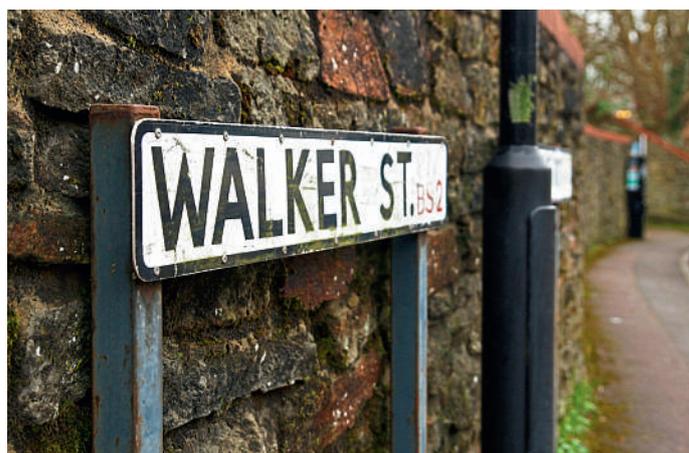
Bluesky Helps to Shape the Future of AI Systems with Turing Fellowship Funding

Aerial mapping company Bluesky International is working alongside organisations such as AstraZeneca, Toyota and Amazon Web Services to shape **artificial intelligence** (AI) systems of the future. Contributing to the multi-million-pound UK Government project, Bluesky is supporting the prestigious **Turing AI Acceleration Fellowship programme** with funding for a University of Leicester research project. Aiming to go beyond current concepts and systems to create AI solutions that are more trusted and more data adaptive, the University of Leicester project will bring together a world-class team of experts and stakeholders to showcase solutions for healthcare, security, space and manufacturing. www.bluesky-world.com



thinkWhere's groundMapper Underpins GIS Transformation at Tilhill

Tilhill is rolling out the latest mapping technology from thinkWhere to transform the way it manages forests, harvests timber and provides landscaping services across the UK. The cloud-based software and data portal groundMapper provides **in-field mapping and analysis tools** as well as instant access to specialist land and property datasets. Designed to improve project management, reporting and collaboration, Tilhill will also be drawing on thinkWhere's extensive experience in open source solutions to implement **QGIS** for advanced users and **QField** for mobile data collection. An early adopter of GIS, Tilhill recognised that its existing infrastructure, although initially customised for Tilhill's specific use, had become outdated. In addition, local divergences in how forestry data was collected, stored and managed, had arisen over time causing issues with data quality and the efficiency of its mapping services. www.thinkwhere.com



GeoPlace publishes guidance on the law and best practice for the re-naming of streets and buildings

GeoPlace has published comprehensive guidance for local authority Street Naming and Numbering Officers and their co-workers in England and Wales who are responsible for naming and re-naming streets and buildings. Working closely with representatives from local authorities, GeoPlace provides technical guidance and best practice to councils on the collation of **street and address information**. Recently, local authorities have been receiving more requests about changing some building and/or street names. Working in collaboration with the **Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) community**, and with independent legal advice from Anthony Collins Solicitors, GeoPlace has published guidance to ensure the complexities around changing a street or building name are fully understood and documented. www.geoplace.co.uk

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